

**Stormwater Steering Committee**  
**August 17, 2006**  
**MPCA Offices**

Attendees: John Jaschke, Erik Silvola, Brian Livingston, Art Persons, John Chapman, Cliff Aichinger, Judy Sventek, Joel Schilling, Roger Clay, Jason Moeckel, Gary Oberts, Jim Hafner, Randy Neprash, Scott Anderson, Don Jakes, Paul Smith, Steve Giddings, Cynthia Kahrman, Andrea Hendrickson, Daniel McLean, Dave Weirans, Julie Johnson, Mark Schmitt, Jay Riggs, Greg Wilson, Gary Pulford, Remi Stone, Gretchen Sabel, Duane Stenlund, Steven Pedersen, Tim Larson, Anne Gelbmann.

**Work Group Reports:**

Education John Chapman gave the committee a report on the recommendations for the stormwater education needs. The education group would like approval of the two page document and to move forward to find funding sources for their recommendations. Gary Oberts expressed concerns over the effectiveness of sediment and erosion control (minimum control measure #4) education in even progressive cities. The document will be changed to note that the focus will be an inventory of current effort instead of an assessment of the effectiveness. There is also a need to quantify the benefits of an education program to the regulated parties. John Chapman made a motion to accept the document, Randy Neprash seconded. Any additional concerns should be addressed to Ron Struss.

Joel Schilling opposed the report and indicated that he will work with Ron Struss to discuss the issues he feels the report needs to cover.

Manual – Judy Sventek said the manual should be online some time in September. Joel Schilling posed a question as to how those with hard copies will obtain updates to the online manual. Dan McLean will look into addressing these issues. The committee will meet again in October.

Monitoring and Research – This group is on hold; however, Roger Clay indicated that research activities are ongoing.

Industrial – Cindy Kahrman introduced herself as the new Industrial Stormwater Program Lead. Eric Sivola and Cindy Kahrman reported for the group. The group is moving forward. They are looking for a volunteer to be an environmental representative. They will contact the Chamber and industry contacts who had previously expressed an interest in the group.

LID Work Group of the SSC – Anne Gelbmann passed out a handout of the new LID Work Group goals and Work Group members. The internal MPCA work team had their first meeting and are working on projects and case studies, and have targeted two cities to work with- Hanover and Lake City. She explained the work plan of the new LID subgroup of the SSC and how they will function. Joel Schilling suggested that they need to have members that are “skeptics,” to help identify the barriers and challenges. Jason Moeckel also suggested that a member from the U of M (Being worked on with Ron Struss) and additional industry representatives should be added.

Watershed Approach Work Group – Dave Weirens-Talks with cities has resulted in many concerns and obstacles being resolved, therefore the project is moving forward and grant monies were received. The RFP was published in the State Registrar August 7, 2006 and the deadline for requests is 8/31/06.

Randy Neprash informed the group of a new committee organized under the auspices of the League of Minnesota Cities - the MN Cities Stormwater Coalition (NCSC). The first organizational meeting was held on July 18 and the committee accepted all of the recommendations of the transitional committee. Initially, the group will be comprised of the cities that are MS4s.

Anne Gelbmann shared news that the Legislature is requiring audits of the watershed districts. The report is to come out in January of 2007. More information is available online at <http://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/announce/wmeval.pdf>

Eco-Experience at the State Fair: Gary Oberts reported that there will be a water exhibit at the State Fair this year. A house will be in the exhibit with rain gardens, rain barrels, porous pavement and other stormwater BMP's. It will even rain in the building. Cliff Aichinger encouraged participation and is looking for volunteers to cover shifts.

Demonstration of Stormwater e-Forum – Dan McLean walked the group through the new website. There will be web links to all committee members as well as meeting notes, agendas and much more information. Discussion followed on the security of the site and the content. There were pros and cons to keeping the site an internal site versus public. Cliff Aichinger suggested restricting access to SSC members only at this time. This was agreed to by the committee. Public materials will remain on the PCA web site.

Construction Stormwater Compliance Discussion; State and Local Roles – Mark Schmitt discussed his concerns with the high level on non-compliance in the construction stormwater program. The PCA alone cannot manage the compliance issues and he would like to see how local units of government can become involved. Duane Stenlund strongly favored instant consequences for non-compliance. He said enforcement is slow in coming and weak when implemented. He wants to have ticketing authority and an expedited settlement option. Mark sees a shortage of workforce as the obstacle to carrying out such programs. A suggestion was made to involve the watershed districts, but Randy Neprash had concerns and suggested forming a small group to look at streamlining the approach in the governmental units involved in enforcement. John Jaschke is already working with a small group to look at the compliance issues and how to bring compliance down to the local units of government. He will meet with this group again and ask the group to discuss this matter. Steven Pedersen stated that the SSC has the latitude to charter a group to help Mark with these issues. Jim Hafner stressed that more education of the contractors would help. Mark Schmitt made a motion to form the sub-group, and Cliff Aischinger seconded. Motion passed.

SSC Work Plan – Handout from Brian Livingston – Discussion centered on what the SSC role is, just to manage work groups or have a broader role and the need to meet every other month. Gary

Oberts suggested having a liason between the SSC and the Clean Water Council. Steven Pedersen wants the group to go back and look at its vision and charter to help plan its future direction. John Jaschke made a motion to appoint Steven Pedersen as liaison and Randy Neprash seconded. Motion passed.

Other Discussion - Duane Stenlund would like the SSC to look at ways to retrofit existing structures, roadways, ditches, etc. to effectively divert stormwater. It was suggested that a chapter could be written and placed into the Stormwater Manual to address retrofit solutions. Gary Oberts, Brian Livingston, and Judy Sventek will explore the magnitude and cost of the activity. Funding sources will then need to be explored.

Brian Livingston suggested adding a section to the SSC's new website for "emerging issues"

The SSC will be meeting bi-monthly beginning in January 2007.

Thanks and a round of applause was given to Gretchen Sabel for all of her hard work on the SSC. She will now be applying her time to the ISTS program.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm